

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

TRACEY LIU, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

HOME DEPOT USA, INC.,

Defendant.

CASE NO. C23-1217JLR

ORDER

Before the court is Plaintiffs Tracey Liu and Kristie Rudham's (together, "Plaintiffs") second unopposed motion for preliminary approval of their proposed class action settlement with Defendant Home Depot USA, Inc. ("Defendant"). (Mot. (Dkt. # 26); *see* Am. Settlement Agreement (Dkt. # 26-1).) On April 4, 2024, the court denied without prejudice Plaintiffs' original unopposed motion for preliminary approval. (4/4/24 Order (Dkt. # 25).) Although the court was "generally satisfied" that the parties' proposed settlement satisfied the requirements for preliminary approval set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(e)(1)(B), the court concluded that the parties'

1 proposed deadlines for class members to file claims, objections, and exclusions did “not
 2 afford class members adequate time to fully consider the Settlement Agreement and class
 3 counsel’s attorneys’ fees motion before deciding whether to object or seek exclusion.”
 4 (*Id.* at 1-2.) Accordingly, the court directed the parties to revise the deadlines set forth in
 5 their settlement agreement to allow class members sufficient time to consider their
 6 options. (*Id.* at 3.) The parties have now executed an amended settlement agreement that
 7 revises the deadlines in accordance with the court’s April 4, 2024 order. (*See* Mot. at 1;
 8 Am. Settlement Agreement §§ I.K, I.X, I.Y¹, III.E.1, VII.)

9 Rule 23(e)(1)(B) requires the parties to a proposed class action settlement to show
 10 “that the court will likely be able to: (i) approve the proposal under Rule 23(e)(2); and
 11 (ii) certify the class for purposes of judgment on the proposal” before the court will direct
 12 that notice of the proposed settlement be given to the class. Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e)(1)(B).
 13 Rule 23(e)(2) provides that the court may approve a proposed settlement “only on finding
 14 that it is fair, reasonable, and adequate after considering whether: (A) the class
 15 representatives and class counsel have adequately represented the class; (B) the proposal
 16 was negotiated at arm’s length; (C) the relief provided for the class is adequate, taking
 17 into account [four factors]; and (D) the proposal treats class members equitably relative
 18 to each other.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e)(2). Having reviewed the motion, the amended
 19 settlement agreement, the materials accompanying the motion, the relevant portions of

21 ¹ The court notes that this paragraph now states that the “Objection/Exclusion Deadline”
 22 is “the date **thirty (60)** days after the Notice Date.” (*See id.* (emphasis added).) To avoid
 confusion, the court DIRECTS the parties to correct this scrivener’s error before posting the
 settlement agreement on the settlement website.

1 the record, and the governing law, the court finds that the amended settlement agreement
2 satisfies the requirements of Rules 23(e)(1)(B) and 23(e)(2). Accordingly, the court
3 GRANTS Plaintiffs' unopposed motion for preliminary approval (Dkt. # 26) and
4 ORDERS as follows:

5 1. The following class (the "settlement class") is certified for purposes of
6 settlement pursuant to Rules 23(a) and 23(b)(3):

- 7 • All persons who, while in the State of California, purchased one or
8 more products advertised as being subject to a purported discount on
9 Defendant's websites Blinds.com, JustBlinds.com, and
10 AmericanBlinds.com from January 26, 2020, to December 5, 2023
11 ("California Settlement Subclass"); and
- 12 • All persons who, while in the State of Washington, purchased one or
13 more products advertised as being subject to a purported discount on
14 Defendant's websites Blinds.com, JustBlinds.com, and
15 AmericanBlinds.com from August 9, 2019, to December 5, 2023
16 ("Washington Settlement Subclass").

17 2. The attorneys of Dovel & Luner, LLP are appointed class counsel for the
18 purpose of settlement.

19 3. Plaintiffs are appointed class representatives for the settlement class. Ms.
20 Liu is appointed class representative for the Washington Settlement Subclass and Ms.
21 Rudham is appointed class representative for the California Settlement Subclass.

22 4. The court finds that the notice plan is reasonably calculated to apprise the
settlement class members of the pendency of this action, the terms of the amended
settlement agreement, and their rights to object to and exclude themselves from the class.
Therefore, the notice plan is approved.

1 5. Simpluris Inc. is appointed as the settlement administrator to implement the
2 terms of the amended settlement agreement, implement the notice plan, and issue notice.

3 6. The claims process is approved. Class members shall have 90 days from
4 the date when notice is first issued to file a claim for a cash benefit.

5 7. The court will consider the awards of attorneys' fees, costs, and incentive
6 awards at the final approval stage, after briefing is complete.

7 8. The procedures for settlement class members to opt out of or object to the
8 settlement, as set forth in the amended settlement agreement, are approved.

9 9. The final approval hearing will take place on **Monday, September 30,**
10 **2024, at 9:00 a.m.,** before the Honorable James L. Robart, at the United States
11 Courthouse for the Western District of Washington, Courtroom 14106, 700 Stewart
12 Street, Seattle, Washington, 98101-9906. The court may change the date or location of
13 the final approval hearing. If the court does so, notice of such change shall be posted on
14 the settlement website.

15 10. Pending final approval of the settlement, all settlement class members are
16 prohibited from commencing any action or other proceeding against Defendant that
17 asserts the same claims regarding Defendant's sales and advertising practices as asserted
18 in this action. Any such proceedings, except those related to the effectuation of this
19 settlement, are stayed pending final approval of this settlement. If for any reason the
20 court does not execute and file an order of final approval, or if the effective date (as
21 defined in the amended settlement agreement) does not occur for any reason, the parties
22 will be restored to the status quo ante as set forth in the settlement. All orders entered in

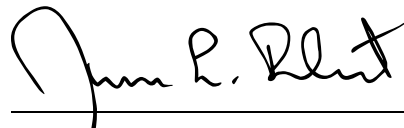
1 connection with this settlement, including this order conditionally certifying the
2 settlement class, will become null and void, and the settlement agreement will be deemed
3 to be without prejudice to the rights of any parties, who will be restored to their
4 respective positions as of the date of the agreement.

5 11. The court exercises exclusive and continuing jurisdiction over the claims
6 and issues in this litigation and specifically over all aspects related to the proposed
7 settlement.

8 12. The following deadlines shall govern proceedings through the final
9 approval hearing:

Event	Date
Notice Deadline	May 17, 2024
Fees Motion Deadline (filed and posted on settlement website)	May 31, 2024
Objection/Exclusion Deadline	July 16, 2024
Claim Form Submission Deadline	August 15, 2024
Final Approval Motion Deadline	August 30, 2024
Deadline to Respond to Objections	August 30, 2024
Final Approval Hearing	September 30, 2024

18 Dated this 16th day of April, 2024.

19
20 

21 JAMES L. ROBART
22 United States District Judge